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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Elia R. Tarantino)

Group Art Unit: 3711)

App. No. : 09/838,949)

Filed : April 19, 2001)

For : **MULTI-PLAYER GAME AND
GAMING SYSTEM**)

Examiner : Unknown)

I hereby certify that this correspondence and all marked attachments are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on

December 4, 2001
(Date)

R. Scott Weide, Reg. No. 37,755

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Enclosed is form PTO-1449 listing references without copies, except for U.S. Patent Nos.:

2,474,573 (Cohen)	2,743,108 (Sanders)	3,549,150 (Weeks)
4,015,850 (Russell)	4,149,727 (Penney)	4,359,227 (Porciello)
4,443,012 (Makovic)	4,720,108 (Gramera)	5,301,952 (Fitzgerald)
5,482,289 (Weingardt)	5,624,119 (Leake)	5,649,704 (Dobbin)
5,727,786 (Weingardt)	D 228,142 (Mannina);	

and European Application No.: 426301A1.

Copies of all but these identified references are not required to be provided in accordance with 37 C.F.R. Section 1.98(d), as they were previously submitted or cited in U.S. Patent Application Nos. 09/684,759, filed October 6, 2000, entitled METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PLAYING A GAME or 09/553,915, filed April 20, 2000, entitled GAMING APPARATUS AND METHOD, or 09/493,934, filed November 12, 1999, entitled IMPROVED COMPUTER

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CONTROLLED GAMING APPARATUS AND METHOD, or 09/298,604, filed April 23, 1999, entitled COMPUTER CONTROLLED GAMING APPARATUS AND METHOD, to which this application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing of the first Office Action on the merits, and as such, no fee is required in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3).

In addition, this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed with a Petition to Make Special. The Applicant believes that the following references are the most closely related to the subject matter encompassed by the claims: U.S. Patent No. 3,549,150 (Weeks); U.S. Patent No. 4,015,850 (Russell); U.S. Patent No. 5,301,952 (Fitzgerald); U.S. Patent No. 5,482,289 (Weingardt); U.S. Patent No. 5,727,786 (Weingardt) and U.S. Patent No. 5,624,119 (Leake). In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.111(b) and (c), below please find a detailed discussion as to how the claimed subject matter is distinguishable over these attached relevant references.

U.S. Patent No. 3,549,150, issued on December 22, 1970, to Weeks discloses a game having a game board with numbers and colors, whereby two dice are rolled, one die having numbers, the other having colors and the player checks for a match. While the '150 Patent does disclose a game including a set of player symbols displayed on a board, Weeks does not disclose a multi-player game in which a row of displayed house or main game dice or other indicia is displayed. The '150 Patent also does not disclose such a game in which the indicia in the row of house indicia are compared, for every player of the game, to corresponding indicia in a row of player indicia.

U.S. Patent No. 4,015,850, issued on April 5, 1977, to Russell discloses a game whereby two dice are rolled, one die having numbers, the other die having the position, after rolling the player

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checks for a match. Like the '150 Patent to Weeks, the '850 Patent does disclose a game including a card displaying player symbols. The Russell patent, however, does not disclose a multi-player game in which a row of displayed house or main game dice or other indicia is displayed, or such a game in which the indicia in the row of house indicia are compared, for every player of the game, to corresponding indicia in a row of player indicia.

U.S. Patent No. 5,301,952, issued on April 12, 1994, to Fitzgerald discloses a game whereby two dice are rolled, each containing numbers that interchangeably refer to the column and row number, after rolling the player marks off the corresponding row and column matched. However, the '952 Patent does not disclose a game in which house or main game indicia are compared to a player indicia on a row-by-row basis.

U.S. Patent No. 5,482,289, issued on January 9, 1996, to Weingardt discloses a bingo type game that utilizes a seven-by-seven matrix. However, the '289 Patent discloses only matching individual spaces of the matrix based on a called bingo ball, and not a game in which displayed rows of house or main game indicia are compared to rows of player indicia.

U.S. Patent No. 5,727,786, issued on March 17, 1998, to Weingardt discloses a bingo type game whereby different colors are associated with numbers on the game board. Achieving a "bingo" for only a single color group can lead to a higher payout amount. The '786 Patent however fails to disclose a game in which displayed rows of house or main game indicia are compared to rows of player indicia.

U.S. Patent No. 5,624,119, issued on April 29, 1997, to Leake discloses a bingo type game in which the various possible indicia are increased by the use of shapes in addition to numbers. Like

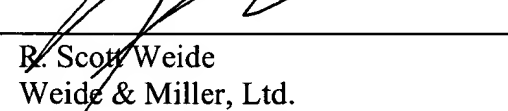
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the other bingo games discussed herein, this game involves attempting to match a single indicia. The game does not include the display of rows of main game indicia which are compared, position by position, to rows of player indicia.

Applicant submits that all other referenced art also does not disclose the claimed subject matter. Further, Applicant believes that features of the claimed invention other than that detailed above are not present in the cited references, and thus the discussion herein is not exhaustive of the reasons why the claimed invention differs from the prior art. For example, the references also do not disclose comparing sequential rows of main game indicia to sequential rows of player symbols until a particular arrangement of matching indicia is achieved.

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Respectfully submitted,

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